

**TITLE: Maternal coping with stress associated with specific learning disabilities**

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**ABSTRACT:**

Dissertation theses is focused on coping strategies analysis of mothers of children with specific learning disabilities. The first two chapters are purely theoretical. They deal partly with SLD, partly with motherhood of children with SLD. The research was realized as a qualitative inquiry based on principles of grounded theory. The data collecting was realized through in-depth semi-structured interviews with 25 mothers of children with SLD. It was confirmed that SLD represent stress for mother which intensity depends not only on child's manifesting and mother's interpretation of these manifestations but also on school aspects of situation (especially on felt school pressure or support) and mother's possibilities of controlling SLD. The coping strategies are primarily influenced by two factors: concept of motherhood and mother's perception of the school and education. Family context and the influence of experts or counsellors were identified as other variables. The basic maternal strategies of coping with SLD include home teaching, strengthening of child's coping strategies, search for own sources, school situation arranging, search for social support and professional help. There were identified four types of coping strategies of SLD of monitored mothers and called helpless, controlling, transforming and non-reflected strategy.

**KEYWORDS:** specific learning disabilities (SLD), child, mother, coping strategy

